

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MAY 16, 1978

The regular meeting of County Council was opened by Chairman Phinney with the opening prayer by Cecil Cox. All Members were present.

The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected Councilman Julius Earle by Clerk of Court Roy D. Harden.

Motion by Mr. Ables, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried to accept minutes of the May 2nd meeting as printed.

School Board Member Dr. Henry Keummerer requested Council allot 76 mills of ad valorem taxes for school operating expense for the 1978-79 budget. Council had previously allotted the School District 66 mills. Dr. Keummerer stated salary adjustments/raises was the main need for the additional 10 mills requested by the Board. Assuming a 98% tax collection the 76 mills would amount to approximately \$4,468,000. Council accepted this request as information and it was referred to the Budget Committee for study/recommendation.

Resolution 78-5 "Fixed Policy on the use of Oconee County Civil Defense Ambulances" was read by Mr. Thomas, after which he moved for its adoption, Mr. Ables seconded and it was unanimously adopted.

County Librarian, Louise Marcum, briefed Council on the activities of the main Oconee Library in Walhalla and the branch libraries in Salem, Westminster and Seneca.

Mr. Bailes presented a request from the Rock Hill Girls Home for \$46.00 for a juvenile that had been placed there in 1976. He moved not to pay the bill and Mr. Ables seconded, however after discussion, Mr. Bailes withdrew his motion until it could be determined who placed the girl there and why. It was later determined that the charges for this particular girl had been paid by the Youth Services and this was a request for a donation to the Home. Mr. Frady urged the use of the facilities at the Oconee Childrens Home for juveniles rather than placing them in jail.

It was announced by Mr. Bailes that a firm offer has been received regarding the purchase of the Smith property. The total amount is \$150,000. The Booker lot is \$25,000 and it, along with 29% of the balance of the total (\$36,250), due at the time of purchase with the balance paid in two payments, January 2, 1979 and January 2, 1980 at 8% interest. Council felt the 8% interest was too high. Mr. Bailes moved to proceed with the purchase subject to negotiation on the rate of interest, Mr. Frady seconded and all votes were in favor.

Councilman Crain reported the Roads and Transportation Committee has completed a study on the county's need for a new rock crusher and a proposal for the proposed equipment was presented by a Representative of Interstate Equipment Co. which reflected the total cost to be approximately \$750,000. Mr. Crain stated the Roads and Transportation Committee has agreed in principal as to the need for the new facility and he so moved. Mr. Thomas seconded and it was carried. Mr. Phinney appointed the Finance Committee to make recommendation with regard to financing.

Councilman Earle gave Council Members a hand-out pertaining to the "Statewide 208 Residual Waste Nonpoint Source Management Plan" and announced that another public hearing on this would be held June 9th in Greenville and urged Members to attend.

Mr. Herring announced that the Buildings and Grounds Committee has no recommendation, as yet, on the needed space in the Law Enforcement Center for juvenile females. He stated they were waiting until Mr. Yarborough can meet with the Law Enforcement Committee, Judge Cureton and Melvin Martin, Juvenile Probation Officer. He also announced the decision as to what to do with the old jail has been postponed until the Barrier Free Design for the buildings is complete.

Mr. Frady announced the three patrol cars for the Sheriff have been delivered and that bids for Putt Putts at Chau Ram and High Falls Parks will be opened May 26th.

Mr. Thomas asked that Mr. Bailes, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, explain why 8 mills were transferred from School Capital Improvement Account to County Operating. The request was made because Mr. Thomas was of the opinion that some confusion existed as it pertained to the Salem Elementary School. Mr. Bailes explained that an administrative error had been made when millage break-out was included in the tax notice mail-out. Following Mr. Bailes explanation the subject was discussed at length.

Motion by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Cox and carried to transfer \$1,000 from budget code 04-1119(Deputy) to 04 5000 (gasoline).

Mr. Ables moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Mike Lipscombe from the Arts Commission and recommend Mr. Walter L. Dost be appointed to replace Mr. Lipscombe. Mr. Cox seconded and motion was carried.

Mr. Phinney appointed a Committee consisting of Councilmen Earle, Crain, Cox and Bailes to make recommendation for the hiring of a CPA firm to conduct the county audit. He also appointed as a Committee for the barrier free renovations for county buildings Councilmen Herring, Frady, Thomas and Ables.

Mr. Phinney announced that Councilman Earle would serve on the same Standing Committees Mr. Moore was assigned to.

Meeting adjourned at 6 P.M.